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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Report of the Secretary-General*

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, decided to convene a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance no later than 2001. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/26 of 17 April 1998,[1] recommended that the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[2] be focused towards the preparatory process for the Conference. In conformity with that resolution, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reorganized the activities of the Third Decade focusing them towards the preparation of the Conference and the Conference itself.

2. The present report, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/153 of 9 December 1998, supplements the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 (E/2001/74) and reflects the activities undertaken during the preparatory process, during the Conference itself and in respect of its follow-up.

3. The report also provides information on the situation of migrant workers and members of their families, as requested by the Assembly in paragraph 7 of section I of its resolution 55/84 of 4 December 2000. Similarly, part of the report responds to the request made by the Assembly in its resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000, that various events and conferences keep it informed about how they contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Finally, in accordance with paragraph 25 of Assembly resolution 52/111, the report contains proposals with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade.

* The present report was drafted after the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held from 31 August to 7 September 2001.

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I. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

A. Preparatory activities for the World Conference

1. Expert seminars

4. Pursuant to paragraph 65 (b) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78 of 28 April 1999,[3] the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights convened five regional expert seminars as part of the preparatory process of the World Conference. The objectives of the seminars were to:

(a) Discuss issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance of priority concern in, but not limited to, the region concerned;

(b) Advance the complex dialogue on racism and recommend practical solutions;

(c) Encourage people to start thinking regionally about these issues and their solutions;

(d) Raise awareness and tolerance, and share information in the region on the issues of racism and intolerance;

(e) Share best practice in combating racism and related intolerance;

(f) Involve Governments, regional organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as other actors of civil society, in the preparations for the World Conference;

(g) Submit reports to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference at its second session, to be held from 21 May to 1 June 2001, and to any other relevant national or regional meetings.

5. The following seminars were held:

(a) Expert Seminar on Remedies Available to the Victims of Acts of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and on Good National Practices in the Field, Geneva, 16-18 February 2000 (A/CONF.189/PC.1/8);

(b) Expert Seminar on the Protection of Minorities and other Vulnerable Groups and Strengthening Human Rights Capacity at the National Level, Warsaw, 5-7 July 2000 (A/CONF.189/PC.2/2);

(c) Expert Seminar on Migrants and Trafficking of Persons with Particular Reference to Women and Children, Bangkok, 5-7 September 2000 (A/CONF.189/PC.2/3);

(d) Expert Seminar on the Prevention of Ethnic and Racial Conflicts in Africa, Addis Ababa, 4-6 October 2000 (A/CONF.189/PC.2/4);

(e) Seminar of Experts on Economic, Social and Legal Measures to Overcome Racial Discrimination, with Particular Reference to Vulnerable Groups, Santiago, 25-27 October 2000 (A/CONF.189/PC.2/5).

2. Regional preparatory conferences

6. The High Commissioner for Human Rights was called upon to help States and regional organizations, upon request, to convene national and regional meetings in preparation for the Conference. The General Assembly urged specialized agencies and the regional commissions to contribute to the convening of such meetings. The High Commissioner assisted in mobilizing funds for this purpose. The European Commission generously contributed to the holding of the regional preparatory meetings.

7. The following four intergovernmental regional preparatory meetings were held prior to the Conference: European Conference against Racism, Strasbourg, France, 11-13 October 2000 (see A/CONF.189/PC.2/6); Regional Conference of the Americas, Santiago, 5-7 December 2000 (see A/CONF.189/PC.2/7); Regional Conference for Africa, Dakar, 22-24 January 2001 (see A/CONF.189/PC.2/8); and Asian Preparatory Meeting, Tehran, 19-21 February 2001 (see A/CONF.189/PC.2/9).

3. Preparatory Committee

(a) Second session of the Preparatory Committee

8. The General Assembly, in paragraph 25 of its resolution 55/84, requested the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference to develop a draft declaration and programme of action that would be presented at the Conference for final negotiation. The Preparatory

Committee held its second session at Geneva, from 21 May to 1 June 2001. It had before it a document containing elements of a draft declaration and programme of action (A/CONF.189/PC.2/27). Over 600 paragraphs of text were to be negotiated. During the two-week meeting, delegates worked on a draft preamble to the declaration and made some progress in consolidating the remaining draft texts (see A/CONF.189/PC.2/L.1/Add.1).

(b) Third session of the Preparatory Committee

9. To continue negotiations on a draft declaration and programme of action, the Preparatory Committee held a third session at Geneva, from 30 July to 10 August 2001. It reviewed the entire draft declaration and most of the draft programme of action (see A/CONF.189/PC.3/1). Three informal working groups on issues of the past, victims and the Middle East held consultations simultaneously.

B. The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

10. The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001. It provided an opportunity for the world to engage, for the first time in the post-apartheid era, in discussions on a broad agenda to combat racism and related issues. Participating in the Conference were 2,454 delegates from 168 countries, including 16 heads of State, 58 foreign ministers and 44 ministers. Representatives of the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies, programmes and relevant mechanisms, as well as intergovernmental organizations and human rights institutions, were also present at the Conference. Accredited were 3,700 representatives of non-governmental organizations and more than 1,342 media representatives. A total of 18,810 participants were officially registered.

11. During its opening session, the Conference was addressed by the Secretary-General; the President of the host country, Thabo Mbeki; the President of the Conference and Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma; the President of the General Assembly, Harri Holkeri; and the Secretary-General of the Conference and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The texts of the statements will be contained in annex II to the report of the Conference.[4]

12. A panel meeting of 15 heads of State and Government, held on 31 August, set the stage for the plenary debate and the negotiations that guided the work of the Conference. The speakers focused their interventions on three broad themes: recalling past practices of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; examining forms of contemporary manifestations of racism; and emphasizing the need to draw on lessons learned to identify concrete and achievable goals.

13. Opening the discussion, the Secretary-General urged the world leaders gathered together at Durban to use their power to convince their respective Governments to put in place constitutional, legislative and administrative guarantees that protect against discrimination.

14. On 8 September, the Conference adopted the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which commit Member States to undertake a wide range of measures to combat racism and racial discrimination at the international, regional and national levels. While agreeing with the consensus, a number of delegations recorded their reservations and statements on the Declaration and Programme of Action. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action will be contained in the report of the Conference.[4]

15. In her closing remarks, the President of the Conference said that, at Durban, a fresh start and new road map had been agreed upon in the fight against racism. Emphasizing that the Conference had set explicit goals for combating discrimination, the High Commissioner for Human Rights said that Durban must be a beginning and not an end, and that there must be follow-up. The goal had been the adoption of a declaration and programme of action that would serve as a blueprint for all nations to promote tolerance and protect all from racial discrimination.

1. Participation of non-governmental organizations

16. In the preparations for the World Conference and during the Conference itself, non-governmental organizations played an important role in helping to define and analyse the issues involved.

17. Networking meetings of non-governmental organizations were held at Warsaw, in November 2000; at Gaborone, in January 2001; at Amman, in February 2001; at Quito, in March 2001; and at Kathmandu, in April 2001. These meetings were of particular importance in assisting non-governmental organizations to prepare for the NGO Forum which met immediately prior to the World Conference. With the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Commission and other donors, non-governmental organizations also organized forums prior to, and participated in, the four regional intergovernmental meetings.

18. More than 1,300 non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations were specifically accredited by the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process. Approximately 3,800 representatives from 777 non-governmental organizations took part in the World Conference. A Youth Summit, held on 26 and 27 August, attracted the participation of over 700 young people, and the NGO Forum, held from 28 August to 1 September, brought together over 7,000 representatives from 3,000 non-governmental organizations.

19. A youth declaration and a declaration by non-governmental organizations and programme of action emerged from the two events, and were presented to the Conference. Some 120 non-governmental organizations made statements at the plenary session of the World Conference, urging effective action on behalf of the millions of people across the globe who suffer from a wide array of discriminatory practices on a daily basis.

2. Parallel and associated events

20. During the Conference, 42 parallel events were held at the Durban Exhibition Centre, the Conference site. The list of parallel events and associated activities will be contained in annex V to the report of the Conference.[4]

21. On the opening day of the World Conference, a high-level global compact dialogue on the theme "Discrimination is everybody's business" brought together senior business, trade union, governmental and United Nations leaders to discuss the role of the private sector in combating discrimination and fostering diversity in the workplace and the wider community. In his address to the meeting, the Secretary-General said that the workplace was on the frontline in the fight against racism. He stressed that action to combat discrimination required leadership from the chief executive officer but, equally important, was what happened in day-to-day relations between supervisors and employees, between customers and suppliers, and among colleagues. The participants in the panel agreed that upholding the universal values of equality and human dignity was not only a legal and moral obligation but was also good for business.

22. On 1 September, a multi-stakeholder workshop, a business initiative by the Volvo Car Corporation, brought together 70 representatives from business, local and national government, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and United Nations agencies to discuss how cross-sectoral partnerships to fight discrimination and promote diversity could be developed at the local, national and international levels.

23. On 3 September, the Office of the High Commissioner organized a panel meeting on the topic "Elements of a global alliance against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: roles and responsibilities of the human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and other relevant institutions". The panel recommended the creation of a global alliance since racial discrimination and its consequences were complex and many-sided, and many institutions needed to make their contributions to the eradication of racism.

24. On 4 September, the International Labour Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner sponsored a panel meeting which focused on how companies and trade unions put non-discrimination, affirmative action and policies of employment equity into practice. The importance of linking respect for diversity with the strategic visions of organizations and training programmes for employees was stressed. Panellists agreed that, while legislation against discrimination was in place in many countries, more joint action by business and trade unions was necessary in practice. The World Conference was viewed by all as an important opportunity to develop new partnerships between the public and private sectors to combat racism and discrimination.

25. At a meeting organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the South African Parliament, some 300 parliamentarians from over 50 countries unanimously adopted a declaration in which they expressed their commitment to combat racism. The declaration, while recognizing the particular role and responsibility that parliaments have in the fight against racism, also acknowledges that their members have a personal responsibility to use their influence on public opinion to promote the values of diversity and tolerance.

26. Also among the parallel activities was a three-day conference organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the topic "Racism and public policy". The panel brought together researchers from various regions of the world who presented papers on four broad themes: the social construction of race and citizenship; the social dynamics of racism and inequality; organized responses to cultural diversity; and the impact of public policies on race relations.

27. On 5 September 2001, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Health Organization held a parallel event on the topic "Exploring the link: HIV/AIDS, stigma, discrimination and racism".

28. Media professionals and Conference participants were invited to attend a meeting on the topic "Racism and the impact and role of media", convened by the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in cooperation with the International Council on Human Rights Policy and the International Federation of Journalists.

3. Publications

29. During the past year, the Office of the High Commissioner has published a newsletter reporting on the preparatory events held at the international, regional and national levels by Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the media and the World Conference secretariat in preparation for the World Conference. The newsletter also contained articles on topics relevant to the Conference and related issues. The newsletter was sent to all permanent missions, the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations resident coordinators, United Nations bodies and programmes, national institutions, accredited non-governmental organizations and key media sources.

30. A publication, *Gender Dimensions of Racial Discrimination*, was issued by the Office of the High Commissioner to coincide with the World Conference. The report calls on the United Nations to address discrimination based on both gender and race when it designs and implements its policies and programmes.

31. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, prepared a publication, *United to Combat Racism*, as a contribution to the World Conference. It comprises articles written by specialists, analysing the various forms of discrimination and ways to combat them and contains the texts of major universal and regional standard-setting instruments aimed at the prevention and elimination of discrimination.

32. At the opening of the International Seminar on Cooperation for the Better Protection of the Rights of Minorities, held at Durban on 1 September 2001, the High Commissioner launched the *United Nations Guide for Minorities*. The guide contains a series of leaflets with the texts of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and its commentary, pamphlets and annexes, information on how minorities might make use of human rights procedures within the United Nations system and those established by regional mechanisms in Africa, the Americas and Europe.

C. Follow-up to the World Conference

33. In order to follow up the recommendations of the World Conference and to undertake other related tasks, the High Commissioner for Human Rights decided to establish an Anti-Discrimination Unit at her Office at Geneva. In the Programme of Action, the Conference welcomed the intention of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish the unit in order to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote equality and non-discrimination, and invited her to consider including in its mandate, inter alia, the compilation of information on racial discrimination and its development and on legal and administrative support and advice provided to victims of racial discrimination, and the collection of

background materials provided by States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions under the follow-up mechanism for the World Conference.

34. The tasks of the Unit are as follows:

(a) To compile and prepare an annual progress report on the action taken by Governments, national human rights institutions, treaty body organizations, civil society organizations and the international community towards implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference. The report will be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

(b) To compile and produce other reports on the follow-up to the Conference, as and when needed;

(c) To provide support to the group of five independent eminent experts which is to follow the implementation of the Programme of Action, if the proposal of the Conference is endorsed by the General Assembly. While the above-mentioned report is that of the High Commissioner, the group of experts may wish to issue its own commentary on the report and other relevant documents;

(d) To explore the possibility of establishing and maintaining a database of good practice in addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) To promote and strengthen active liaison with non-governmental organizations, parliamentary groups, youth and women's groups, trade unions and business groups in follow-up to the Conference and to organize international and regional consultations with them;

(f) To promote and strengthen active liaison with United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental bodies in follow-up to the Conference, to organize consultations with them on a regular basis and to develop and implement joint activities with them;

(g) To initiate and support selected awareness-building projects with national institutions, youth and women's groups, and other interested entities on specific themes and topics relating to the Programme of Action;

(h) To produce and disseminate special reports and publications on the follow-up to the Conference.

II. Information on the situation of migrant workers

35. During the World Conference, representatives of States addressed various issues relating to migrant workers. The final document of the Conference highlighted, inter alia, the importance of eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants, including migrant workers, with special attention to protecting people engaged in domestic work. Other issues on which consensus was reached included the adoption of measures that would help eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the workplace, and the need to ensure the full equality of all before the law, including labour law. The final document of the Conference also tackled the questions of the participation of migrant workers in vocational training, collective bargaining and trade union activity, among others. Emphasis was also on promoting the recognition of the educational, professional and technical credentials of migrants, with a view to maximizing their contribution in their country of residence. Other substantive issues included the full enjoyment by all migrants of all human rights, including those related to fair wages, and equal remuneration for work and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood. The final document of the Conference also highlighted the importance of implementing laws against practices that endanger human lives or lead to various kinds of servitude and exploitation, such as debt bondage, slavery, sexual and labour exploitation.

36. The Conference also underlined the positive effect of family reunification on integration and called upon States to facilitate family reunion in an expeditious and effective manner, with due regard for the desire of many family members to have an independent status. Furthermore, the importance of ratifying and acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families of 1990 was underlined.

37. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants has incorporated the question of migrant domestic workers as a priority into her mandate. In her statement to the World Conference, the Special Rapporteur noted the specific vulnerability of migrant domestic workers to

human rights abuse. She also addressed this issue and numerous others affecting the human rights of migrant workers in her reports to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/82 and E/CN.4/2001/83 and Add.1), as well as in her written contributions to the World Conference against Racism (A/CONF.189/PC.1/19 and A/CONF.189/PC.2/23, annex). In these documents, the Special Rapporteur highlighted the need to guarantee the effective protection of the fundamental human rights of all migrants, with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups, which include women and child migrants, undocumented migrants and domestic workers.

III. Proposals for supplementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade

38. In paragraph 25 of its resolution 52/111, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his report on racism proposals with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade. The final document emanating from the World Conference supports and strengthens the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the Third Decade, 1993-2003, and provides new avenues for ideas on practical measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

39. The goals and objectives of the Third Decade, as affirmed by the General Assembly in paragraph 1 of the revised Programme of Action for the Decade (Assembly resolution 49/146, annex) are:

> "... to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, especially by eradicating racial prejudice, racism and racial discrimination; to arrest any expansion of racist policies, to eliminate the persistence of racist policies and to counteract the emergence of alliances based on mutual espousal of racism and racial discrimination; to resist any policy and practices which lead to the strengthening of the racist regimes and contribute to the sustainment of racism and racial discrimination; to identify, isolate and dispel the fallacious and mythical beliefs, policies and practices that contribute to racism and racial discrimination; and to put an end to racist regimes."

40. The Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference at Durban, while following the objectives of the Decade, addresses a wider range of practical issues that could supplement the Programme of Action for the Third Decade. During the remaining two years of the Decade, action could therefore be initiated in the areas below.

Universal ratification

41. The Conference affirmed that universal adherence to and full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Racial Discrimination are of paramount importance for promoting equality and non-discrimination in the world, and set the goal of universal ratification of the Convention by 2005.

42. The Conference recommended that the Commission on Human Rights prepare complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects.

Group protection

43. The Conference called upon the United Nations to develop capacity-building programmes intended for Africans and people of African descent in the Americas and around the world. It urged international organizations to address the situation of persons with disabilities who are also subject to racism and racial discrimination. It encouraged the United Nations to promote and make use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex), in particular those provisions relating to non-discrimination.

44. The Conference urged international organizations to improve data collection and analysis, to promote research, exchange of experience and successful practice and develop promotional activities in this area, and to develop indicators of progress. It further urged the United Nations to redress the marginalization of Africa's contribution to world history and civilization by developing and implementing a specific and comprehensive programme of research, education and mass communication to disseminate widely a balanced

and objective presentation of Africa's seminal and valuable contribution to humanity.

45. The Conference invited the Office of the High Commissioner to undertake consultations on a regular basis with non-governmental organizations and to encourage research activities aimed at collecting, maintaining and adapting the technical, scientific and information materials produced by all cultures around the world to combat racism.

46. The Conference encouraged the United Nations to cooperate with States in initiating and developing cultural and educational programmes aimed at countering racism. It urged the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to provide support to States in the preparation of teaching materials and tools.

Migrants

47. The Conference called for the Office of the High Commissioner to provide support to combat discrimination against migrant workers. It requested the Office to pay special attention to violations of the human rights of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular migrants and migrant workers, to promote international cooperation in combating xenophobia and, to this end, to develop activities that could be carried out in countries on the basis of appropriate programmes of cooperation.

Trafficking

48. The Conference recommended that the General Assembly consider declaring a United Nations year or decade against trafficking of persons, especially in women, young people and children, in order to protect their dignity and human rights.

Globalization

49. The Conference encouraged international organizations to address those aspects of globalization that may lead to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Technical cooperation

50. The Conference called upon the Office of the High Commissioner to develop and fund specific technical cooperation projects aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Database

51. The Conference recommended that the Office of the High Commissioner create a database containing information on: (a) practical means to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including anti-discrimination legislation, as well as legal means to combat racial discrimination; (b) remedies available through international mechanisms; (c) opportunities for technical cooperation; and (d) academic studies and specialized documentation.

Indigenous people

52. The Conference recommended that the Secretary-General conduct an evaluation of the results of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and make recommendations on how to mark the end of the Decade, including appropriate follow-up.

Anti-Discrimination Unit

53. The Conference supported the creation, within the Office of the High Commissioner, of an anti-discrimination unit (see para. 33 above).

Eminent persons

54. In follow-up to the World Conference, the High Commissioner is requested to cooperate with five independent eminent experts to follow the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action. An annual progress report to the Commission and the General Assembly would be part of the follow-up process.

IV. Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

55. The Declaration adopted by the World Conference at Durban clearly states that, guided by the principles set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the recognition that it has a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity and to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the

world's people, the international community commits itself to working for the beneficial integration of the developing countries into the global economy, resisting their marginalization, helping them to achieve accelerated economic growth and sustainable development, and eradicating poverty, inequality and deprivation.

56. Furthermore, the measures set out in the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at Durban contribute to the achievement of a number of objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; respect and tolerance among human beings; the implementation by States parties of human rights laws; strengthening of the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms; the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under foreign occupation; the implementation of policies and measures at the global level which correspond to the needs of developing countries; strengthening of the principle of tolerance of and respect for others in all their diversity of belief, culture and language; the aim of making globalization fully inclusive; prevention of conflicts; freeing of men, women and children from conditions of extreme poverty; ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families; promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; elimination of the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies; and promotion of greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.

V. Status of the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

57. In paragraph 16 of its resolution 55/84, the General Assembly recognized the need for adequate support and financial resources for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and its Programme of Action. The Assembly expressed its appreciation to those that had made contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade and strongly appealed to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so, to contribute generously to the Fund.

58. The World Conference recognized that the success of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade would require political will and adequate funding and international cooperation. The Conference urged the international community to support the activities of the Third Decade, which concludes in 2003. From July 2000 to October 2001, the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade received a total of US$ 5,000. In 2001, the World Conference received voluntary contributions of US$ 1,862,622.

VI. Conclusions

59. Doubtless, the most important event during the past eight years of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was the World Conference. The final document of the Conference should show the path for the remaining two years of the Decade, as well as any future action in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

60. In her closing statement, the High Commissioner for Human Rights said that a framework exists, that a start had been made, and that that was what counted. She also said that the true measure of our work would be whether it made a real difference in the lives of the victims of racism and discrimination.

61. The Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at Durban provide a series of recommendations for national plans and programmes for tougher anti-discrimination legislation and administrative measures, for universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international treaties, for the strengthening of education, for improving the remedies and recourses available to victims, and much more. In her closing statement, the High Commissioner said that this is where our attention should now be concentrated, and that this is the work we have to do.

62. In order to ensure that these recommendations result in concrete achievements and improvements, the full support of all actors is needed: individuals, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and States alike. Such improvements need resources

and the financial support of those actors, as well as a real commitment of States and a true engagement of individuals. All are important prerequisites in the ongoing fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] General Assembly resolution 49/146, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[4] The report of the Conference will be issued as a United Nations publication (A/CONF.189/12).